



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

Clean Air Act Inspection Report

Drafted: September 20, 2022

Finalized: September 26, 2022

EPA Inspector: Abdi T. Mohamoud, Environmental Engineer, Air Compliance Section/ATM/

EPA Reviewer: Darren Fortescue, Senior Enforcement Coordinator, Air Compliance Section /DEF/

Date of Inspection: September 12, 2022

Facility Name: Homesolutions Furniture Inc

ICISAir ID#: MA0000002511904084

Facility Location: Saugus, Massachusetts

Mailing Address: 180 Central Street, Saugus, MA 01906

Disclaimer:

Unless otherwise noted, this report describes conditions at the facility/property as observed by EPA inspector(s), and/or through records provided to and/or information reported to EPA inspector(s) by facility representatives and as understood by the inspector(s). This report may not capture all operations or activities ongoing at the time of the inspection. This report does not make final determinations on potential areas of concern. Nothing in this report affects EPA's authorities under federal statutes and regulations to pursue further investigation or action.

Inspection Attendees:

Name	Title	Organization
Abdi T. Mohamoud	Clean Air Act Inspector	US EPA
Juan Vargas	Owner	HS-Furniture

Facility/Process Description:

Homesolutions Furniture Inc (“HSF”) purchases used or new, slightly damaged refrigerators and sells them to its customers. Also, HSF has a furniture catalog that its customers can order from. HSF has been in business since 2014 and is owned by Juan Vargas.

Number of Employees and Working Hours:

Mr. Vargas is the only person employed by HSF. Facility working hours are Monday through Saturday, from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.

Potentially Applicable Clean Air Act Requirements:

40 CFR Part 82, Subpart F (This is a federal standard that establishes requirements for the service, maintenance, repair and disposal of appliances containing ozone-depleting refrigerant).

Previous Enforcement Actions:

Based on a review of the EPA’s Enforcement and Compliance History Online database (“ECHO”) and there have been no formal or informal enforcement actions against this facility in the last 5 years.

Opening Conference:

On September 12, 2022, at 9:30 am, EPA inspector Abdi Mohamoud arrived at the HSF facility located at 180 Central Street, Saugus, Massachusetts, and met Mr. Vargas. Mr. Mohamoud presented his credentials to Mr. Vargas. Mr. Mohamoud explained the purpose of the inspection was to evaluate HSF’s compliance with any applicable Clean Air Act regulations, specifically the federal standard that establishes requirements for the service, maintenance, repair and disposal of appliances containing ozone-depleting refrigerant.

Mr. Vargas said that HSF purchases used and new slightly damaged appliances (refrigerators and stoves) that contain the refrigerant R134. Mr. Vargas said that he sells the appliances to his customers. Mr. Vargas said that HSF does own a refrigerant recovery/recycling machine, but he uses it only to add refrigerant R134 if a used appliance needs it. Mr. Vargas said he purchases the R134 refrigerant from Walmart and Home Depot.

Facility Tour:

Mr. Mohamoud walked into the second floor where refrigerators and stoves were housed and sold. Mr. Mohamoud met Mr. Vargas and was shown the appliances. Mr. Mohamoud noted that most of the appliances looked new. Mr. Mohamoud took several photographs of the second-floor room (All photographs are located in the inspection file).

Closing Conference:

Mr. Mohamoud said to Mr. Vargas that the release of R134 refrigerant to the atmosphere is prohibited and he should not be doing this. Mr. Vargas said that he adds R134 refrigerant into used refrigerators that HSF receives that are low in the refrigerant. Mr. Vargas said HSF does not accept any appliance that are damaged to the point that its refrigerant has been released.

Mr. Mohamoud thanked Mr. Vargas for his time and assistance and left the site.